

catalytic RNA molecule under conditions suitable for said catalytic RNA molecule to cleave said target RNA molecule, wherein said catalytic RNA molecule comprises at least one modified nucleoside, said modified nucleoside comprising a modifier group replacing a hydroxy group at the ribose sugar 2'-position.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modifier group is a halo group.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modifier group is an amino group.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modifier group is a monosubstituted amino group.

48. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modifier group is a disubstituted amino group.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modifier group is an azido group.

50. (New) The method of any of claims 44-49, wherein said catalytic RNA molecule is a hammerhead ribozyme.

51. (New) The method of any one of claims 44-49, wherein said catalytic RNA molecule is a hairpin RNA.

52. (New) The method of any one of claims 44-49, wherein said target RNA molecule is a foreign genetic material.

53. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said target RNA molecule is a foreign genetic material.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said target RNA molecule is a foreign genetic material.